

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FDRE-00 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSO-00 IO-10 /073 W

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P 071130Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 201

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, CB

SUBJECT: CAMBODIAN ORPHANS: REQUEST FOR TRANSPORT

1. GROUP OF JOURNALISTS HEADED BY LEE RADKEWITCH OF ABC AND DENNIS CAMERON (FREELANCE) ARE ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE DEPARTURE FROM CAMBODIA OF SIZEABLE GROUP OF ORPHANS. SYDNEY SCHANBERG OF NEW YORK TIMES ADVISED DCM APRIL 7 THAT GROUP HAS CLEARED MATTER WITH MINISTER REFUGEES KONG ORN, WHO HAS ASSURED THEM THAT HE CAN AND WILL ARRANGE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION ON SHORT NOTICE AND GKR WELCOMES THIS EFFORT TO GET ORPHANS OUT. SCHANBERG ASKED IF EMBASSY COULD PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION TO THAILAND.

2. WE HAVE INFORMED SCHANBERG THAT BACK-HAUL C-130'S COULD BE USED ON SPACE-AVAILABLE BASIS (50 SEATS PER PLANE) AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, BUT AT LEAST TWO OTHER ASPECTS MUST BE CLEARED. FIRST OF ALL, RTG WOULD HAVE TO APPROVE IDEA OF AT LEAST PROVIDING TRANSIT PERMISSION, AND SECONDLY JOURNALISTS SHOULD CONTACT ONE OR MORE ORPHAN ADOPTION AGENCIES IN US OR ELSEWHERE WHO COULD PICK UP THE ORPHANS FROM THAILAND AND TAKE CARE OF THEIR ONWARD MOVEMENT AND PLACEMENT. SCHANBERG ESTIMATES THAT ABOUT 150 ORPHANS ARE ALREADY PROCESSED

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HERE AND READY TO GO, AND NUMBER MIGHT REACH 500

ALTOGETHER.

3. FOR BANGKOK: DO YOU BELIEVE RTG WOULD OBJECT TO ARRIVAL OF SUCH ORPHANS AT UTAPAO, GIVEN ASSURANCE THAT ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE (BY JOURNALIST GROUP) FOR THEIR ONWARD MOVEMENT BY SOME ADOPTION AGENCY? CAN THIS BE CLEARED IN ADVANCE WITH RTG?

4. FOR DEPT: CAN WE BE GIVEN NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF APPROPRIATE AGENCIES IN US WHICH MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN PICKING UP THESE CAMBODIAN ORPHANS FROM UTAPAO AND TAKING CARE OF THEIR ONWARD MOVEMENT AND PLACEMENT?

5. WE NEED ANSWERS PROMPTLY, AS WE DO NOT KNOW HOW LONG C-130'S WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BACK-HAUL TRANSPORT OF ORPHANS.
DEAN

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